CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 26 May 1994, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. György Boytha (Hungary)

GE.94-61773 (E)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 679th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

This meeting, the last under my presidency, will be a short one as I have no speakers inscribed for today. None the less, I should like to ask if any delegation wishes to take the floor at this stage. This not being the case, I should like to make some closing remarks as Hungary's presidency comes to an end. Thereafter, I propose to take up for decision the request received from Spain to participate during the second part of the session in the work of the Conference.

It has become almost a tradition that outgoing Presidents offer a short summary to the Conference at the end of their tenure about their impressions and experience. I have to admit that Hungary took over the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament in a very comfortable period. The substantive work of the Conference and its ad hoc committees commenced in a smooth and expeditious manner due to the efforts of my predecessors Ambassadors Hoffman and Errera, and the usually difficult chore of steering the process of report writing will be the responsibility of my successors. Nevertheless, even amongst such favourable circumstances we had to tackle a few problems. I would like to express my appreciation to all delegations, and especially the group coordinators and the representatives of China and Sweden, for the constructive approach they showed in addressing these issues. The Special Coordinator on "cut-off", Ambassador Shannon of Canada, is continuing his consultations and Ambassador Norberg of Sweden, the Special Coordinator on the review of the agenda, is going to report to the Conference in June. Friend of the Chair Ambassador Lampreia of Brazil intends to present a progress report on his consultations on the expansion of membership by the end of June.

On the substantive side, thanks to the efforts of all delegations, the work of the Conference has continued to run smoothly. The Conference is making remarkable progress in the field of the nuclear test ban, and exciting and forward-looking discussions can also be witnessed on nearly all other items on our agenda. I am convinced that these positive developments should give a definite answer to all the doubts and reservations questioning the Conference's ability to adapt the complex challenges of the changing international environment. It is this ability that should also help us in finding a solution for the long overdue issue of expanding the membership of the Conference. I have to take note with regret that the circumstances that influence the development of this subject have not yet changed to such an extent that would have allowed the Special Coordinator to report on substantial progress. I urge all delegations to find ways and means to overcome the remaining obstacles, and once again I would like to assure the next President of the Conference as well as Ambassador Lampreia of the full support and cooperation of the Hungarian delegation in his efforts.

This concludes my remarks at the end of the Hungarian presidency.

As announced, I would now like to invite the Conference to consider the request received from Spain to participate, during the second part of the

(The President)

session, in the work of the Conference. The secretariat has distributed today a note from the President containing this request (CD/WP.454). During the consultations I have been holding, there has been no objection to this request. In the circumstances, I propose that we adopt the recommendation contained in document CD/WP.454 directly in plenary, it being understood that this does not constitute a precedent for future occasions when an informal meeting might be necessary. May I take it that the Conference takes a decision to this effect?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I now turn to the informal paper circulated by the secretariat, containing the timetable of meetings to be held by the Conference and its subsidiary bodies for next week? This timetable has been prepared in consultation with the chairmen of the ad hoc committees. As usual, it is merely indicative and may be changed, if necessary. On that understanding, I suggest that we adopt it.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: That concludes our business for today. Does any delegation wish to take the floor at this stage? If not, I intend to adjourn this plenary meeting. However, before adjourning this meeting I wish to remind all delegations that the deadline for submission of any changes and/or additions to the draft list of delegations accredited to the Conference on Disarmament, which was distributed at our last plenary, is 27 May. I would urge delegations to please respond without delay. In addition, I wish to remind you that this meeting will be immediately followed by a meeting of Working Group 1 of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban here in this room, and I would also like to ask the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency in Armaments to convene in adjacent room I for a short discussion, and I hope you will be able to be present at this meeting of the Bureau.

The next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on Thursday, 2 June 1994 at 10 a.m. If there is no request for the floor, I declare the plenary meeting adjourned.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.